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sword or peece also, they sprinkle some into the water in the morning before they wash. they have many wives, to whome as neare as I could p'rceive they Keep constant. the great King Powhatan had most wives. * * * The women are very cleanly in making their bread and preparing meat. I found they account after death to goe into another world pointing eastward & the element & when they saw us at prayer they observed us w'th great silence and respect, especially those to whome I had imparted the meaning of o'r reverence. To conclude they are very witty and ingenius people, apt both to understand and speake o'r language, so that I hope in God as he hath miraculously p'rserved us hither from all danger both of sea and land & their fury so he will make us authors of his holy will in converting them to o'r true christian faith by his owne inspiring grace and knowledge of his duty.

[Endorsed] *Capten Newport of Virginias*
Discovery Virginia 21 June, 1607.

THE STARVING TIME.

LETTERS FROM LORD DE LA WARE TO THE EARL OF SALISBURY.

[Near the close of the year 1608 Thomas West, Lord Delaware, was appointed Governor and Captain-General of Virginia.

The custom of the day was for the Governor-in-Chief to remain in England and the colony to be governed, immediately, by a deputy.

Accordingly, Sir Thomas Gates, Lieutenant-Governor, with Somers and Newport, and a fleet of nine ships left England in the latter part of May, 1609.

The great storm encountered, the wreck of the ship containing the three leaders on the Bermudas (which probably gave the first suggestion for "The Tempest") their lengthy stay at the

islands and final escape are events of early Virginia history too well known to require repetition.

Seven of their vessels had, in the first instance, reached Virginia safely, where it was seen that the colony was rapidly becoming disorganized. The "starving time" followed, and when Gates and his companions reached Virginia, May 24, 1610, they found only sixty half-starved wretches, who seemed more dead than alive. They were unceasing in their importunities that he should abandon the colony and return with them to England. After a few days he consented, and on June 7th with all on board, dropped down the river. Early next morning a boat from Lord Delaware was met coming up the river, and the colony was re-established, never again to be abandoned.

On the receipt in England of the news of the supposed loss of Gates, Lord Delaware determined to go Virginia in person, and, as has been stated, fortunately arrived in time to prevent the colony from being abandoned. After staying nearly a year, during which he did much to establish a firm and prosperous settlement, his health gave way, and in March, 1611, he returned to England *via* the West Indies. On this voyage he entered the mouth of the river, since called in his honor, Delaware. In 1618 he again sailed for Virginia, but died on the voyage.

Lord Delaware wrote, on his return to England, a "Relation," which was published as a pamphlet in 1611, and which was privately reprinted in *fac-simile* in 1868 by Mr. A. W. Griswold. A copy of the last in the Virginia State Library. The same "Relation" was also printed in Purchas' Pilgrimes.

There is among the Harlein MS. in the British museum a letter, dated Jamestown, July 7, 1610, from Delaware, and the Council, giving an account of affairs in Virginia up to that date. This has been published by the Hakluyt Society (in 1849) and in Neill's "Virginia Company."

The following letters were copied from the originals in the English Public Record Office]:

COLONIAL PAPERS, VOL. II, NO. 22.

Maie it please your good Lordshippe. Synce I departed from

your ho: I have meet w'th much comforth, yett mingled w'th as manie lamentable accidentes, as ever your eares have binne filled w'thall and because S'r Thomas Gates who is the bearer hereof was the first that fowndd our men in miserie, I leave that relation to him as being best able to Informe and [?] and onlie tuche breeflie what myselfe canne Testifie.

The first of Aprill I departed the cowes [Cowes] in the Ile of Wight w'th 3 good shippes and in them an 150 p'rsns to lannd as Plannters in Virginia. The [12 aged p'rsns*] I made land, it beinge the Traccra Iland, that night the wynnd came contrarie and it blew hard, the next daie, that wee weare forced to seeke out a rodde unknowne unto our best marriners, and wee fared accordingle, for 2 of my shippes lost theare annkors, and spoyled divers of thear men in seekinge to weye them, and the annkor of my ownne shippe came home so that I was forced to sea again, so sonne as my ankors was downne. The 15 daie I lost sight of my Rear Admirall and I continued beating uppe and downne w'th the wynnd contrarie to meete w'th our losse shippe but could not bee so happie the [wind] continued still contrarie, so that I was forced to runne to the southward to the hight of 28 degrees of northerlie Latitude, and untill the 27 of April I had noe wynnd to carrie me forward one my course; but then the wynnd came fairer, and I went before the wynnd, till I came near the coaste of Virginia, so that time if it had not scannted I had recovered the place in lesse then 8 weekes, but I laye beatinge uppon the coaste that it was neare tenn weekes before I made the lannd, for it was the 5 of Junne beefore I sawe lannd, and that night I came to anne annkor at Cape Henrye, havinge the blessinge (wherein was Sir Ferdinando Wenman) in my companie. The next daie the wynnd beinge faier, I was faynne to take the opportunitie of the tide, to turnne uppe the river, and a little after noone I descried a sayle cominge in at the poynte, and then I presentlie blae uppe w'th her, and when I came to make what shee was I fowndd her to bee my ownne consort that had binne missinge neare 8 weekes. The 6 of Junne I came to ann annkor under Cape Comfort, where I met w'th muche coold comforth, as if it had not binne accompayned w'th the most happie newes of S'r Thomas Gattes his arrivall,

It had binne sufficientte to have broake my hart and to have made mee altogether unable to have donne my kings or con-trey anie service, Sir Thomas Gattes likewise beinge in dispaire of anie present supplie prepared himselfe and all his companie for England & mente to quite the countrie; upon which adver-tisement I presentlie sent my skife awaie, to give him notice of my arrivall. w'ch newes I knewe would alter that resoluton of his, my selfe w'th all possible speede followed after, and meet him cominge downe the the river havinge shipped the hole com-panie and colonie in two small pinnesses with a determination to staie some tenn daies at Cape Comfort to expect o'r cominge and otherwise so to goe for Enngland havinge but 30 daies vit-tualles leaft him and his houngrie companie, soe upp'n the tenth of June I lannded at James' Town beinge a verie noysome and unholosome place, occationed much bie the mortallatie and idle-ness of owure people, so the next daie I sett the sailors a worke to unlade shippes, and the land men some to cleanse the Town, some to make cole for our forges. I sent fishermen out to pro-vide fishe for our men, to save other provision, but thaie had ill succeese, likewise I dispatched S'r George Sommers backe againe to the Bermudas, this good old gentleman, out of his love and zeale not motioninge. but most cheerfullie and resolutelie undertakinge to p'form so dangerous a voiagge, and if it please God hee doe safelie returnne he will store us w'th hogges fleshe and fishe enoughe to serve the hole colonie this wynter. Thus bie Godes assistance I will goe forward, imploying my best indeavors in settlinge and managinge these affairs. * * *

Althoughhe thaie weare never so weake and so farr out of order as nowe I founned them I make noe question if God restore mee to health and give me a blessinge to my labours I shall verie shortlie in some measure recompennce the great care and charge the companie hathe binne at, and returne somethinge valuable unto the adventurers, who have so [well?] beganne & constan-tilie seconded, these but as yett unfortunate proceedings, I make no question but your Lo: wilbee a favorer and a furtherer here-in unto us, and make it your ownne couse, synnce it is under-taken for godes glorie, and our contries good; to both of w'ch you have binne so zealous and so faithfull a professor; assuringe

your Lo: you shall ever finde me readie to execute all your comandements and to do you all the faithfull service that liethe in my power.

from
Lord De La Ware to my
Lord from Virginia
re: in Sep: 1610

To the right honorable my
most worthy and spetiall
frend the Earle of Salisbury
give this

[The next letter, written immediately after Lord Delaware's arrival in England.]

STATE PAPERS, DOMESTIC; JAMES I.—VOL. 64, No 63.

May it please your Lo'p:

I would gladly have wayted on your Lo'p the last night as soone as I came to toun; but I understoode from S'r Walter Cope that your advice was otherwise; first to have a care of my health, then to attend his Ma'ty, and afterward your Lo'p: for my health I thank God I finde myselfe perfectly recovered though something weake in regard of my long sicknes; ever since my first arrival at the Island I have recovered dayly and arrived at fiall [Fayal, one of the Azores] the 18th of Aprill or thereabouts so that I dare bouldly say that I have no touch of my disease remayning on me, and if your Lo'p shall think it fitt I would presently attend his Ma'ty. This long and paynefull sickness of myne hath no whit discouraged me to proceede w'th the business I have undertaken if it be now prosecuted as it is begun; neither had my retourne hither been so suddayne, if the windes had favored myne intencion for the West Indies, at my departure from Virginia: for I dare bouldly say, there was never more hope then at this present and when it shall please your Lo'p; I doubt not but to give you full satisfaction to every doubt or scandall that leyeth upon that contry fearing nothing less then an honorable and profitable end of all, if now it be

not let fall, thus attending your Lo'p: further advice I humbly take my leave this 22th of June 1610. [This date should be 1611.]

Your Lo'p: servant to comannnd.

(signed)

THO: LAWARRE.

*[indorsed] to the right-honorable
my very good Lord the Earle
of Salisbery Lord high
Tresorer of England
give this.*

VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE PAPERS.

FROM ORIGINALS IN THE VIRGINIA STATE ARCHIVES.

(CONTINUED)

ARCHIBALD BROWN TO JAMES WODDROP, 1775.

Arch'd Brown To Mr. James Woddrop,
Merchant, Norfolk.

Favoured by Capt. Scarvant.

Dear James:

Capt. Samuel Scarvant sailed this evening in the Sloop Mary bound for Turks Island there to purchase a load of Salt in consequence of your Letters, should he fail in getting he proceeds immediately to Hispanula & takes in Molasses for N. Carolina, but am in hopes he can get salt enough which I know is far the best & safest voyage. The Sloops Mast & boom are both sprung which obliges me (after having a survey taken) to replace them new, part of the corn is damag'd some of the bread & all the flour, have sold the last at Vendue, let the underwriters know of this, cannot as yet ascertain exactly the loss, her disbursements is more this time than usual in order to put her in the very best